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Next 3 Page(s) In Document Denied

86- 1440x

Congress of the United States

Committee on Foreign Affairs

House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

April 3, 1986

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The Honorable William J. Casey
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Mr. Casey:

As you are aware, the House Committee on Foreign Affairs has an ongoing active interest in the area of nuclear testing.

Recent press accounts which indicate that the CIA has revised its method of estimating the yield of Soviet nuclear tests raise a number of questions: (1) Has the CIA revised its method of estimating the yield of Soviet nuclear tests? (2) Is this an official administration position? (3) What is the significance of this new position? (4) How long has the administration been using the revised procedures? (5) What affect have the revised procedures had on past estimates of Soviet yield? (6) Do the revised procedures, in effect, lower the estimates of the yield of Soviet tests? (7) If so, by how much? and (8) Have the revised procedures changed the CIA's position in regard to Soviet "likely violations" of the Threshold Test Ban Treaty?

I would appreciate your prompt reply to this request. If you have any questions about this request, please feel free to contact Ivo Spalatin, Staff Director of the Subcommittee on Arms Control, or Janey Wright-Rutan, of the subcommittee staff at 225-8926.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,


Dante B. Fascell
Chairman

DBF:jwj